

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CPR-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 NSC-07

NSCE-00 PRS-01 /030 W

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O 110725Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4777

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0765

LIMDIS

FOR EASUM AND COOTE

DEPT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR MARSH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MP PDEV US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSES TO GOM

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0684; (B) PORT LOUIS 0749

1. REALIZE WHITE HOUSE STAFF IS VERY HARD PRESSED THESE DAYS AND MAURITIUS IS ONLY FAINT SPECK ON WASHINGTON HORIZON. BUT IN ALL HONES TY

I MUST SAY I FEEL SOMEONE DOWN THE LINE IS DOING PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE CONSIDERABLE DIS-SERVICE IN TAKING SO LONG TO APPROVE SIMPLE BRIEF RESPONSES TO CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES BY ACTING GOVERNOR GENERAL AUGUST 12 TO PRESIDENT AND FROM PRIME MINISTER AUGUST 21 TO VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE.

2. PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM AND OTHER TOP GOM LEADERS HAVE ALSO PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TO ME THEIR PERSONAL RESPECT AND BEST WISHES FOR PRESIDENT FORD AND VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE ROCKEFELLER. RAMGOOLAM HAS ADDITIONALLY MENTIONED TO ME SEVERAL TIMES HIS PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCESHIP WITH AND LIKING FOR ROCKEFELLER.

3. MAURITIAN LEADERS ARE SOPHISTICATED AND SENSITIVE HUMAN BEINGS.
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THEY ARE ALSO BEING ASSIDUOUSLY CULTIVATED BY MOSCOW. WE NEED TO

WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND MAURITIUS
HAS A MORE DIRECT CONNECTION WITH DIEGO THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY OUT
HERE. SO LET'S BE POLITE, NOT JUST FOR THE SAKE OF PROTOCOL BUT
FOR OUR OWN REALISTIC INTERESTS HERE.

4. P.S.: RAMGOOLAM'S 74TH BIRTHDAY IS SEPTEMBER 18. HE WILL BE
RECEIVING CONGRATULATIONS FROM MANY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. HOW ABOUT
ONE FROM WASHINGTON -- BEFORE THE SOVIETS ONE UP US AGAIN? MANHARD

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